

CLAY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

•

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1955

BY

JOHN REID GRAHAM
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

CLAY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

•

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1955

BY

JOHN REID GRAHAM
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1955

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present the Annual Report for the year 1955.

The estimated population (Registrar General's figures) shows a decrease of 50 on the previous year, this year's figure being 8,720.

The births show an increase of seven on the previous year, and the infantile mortality figure of 25.31 per 1,000 births is the lowest ever recorded in the district.

The vital statistics as a whole can be said to be highly satisfactory.

I would take this opportunity of thanking my colleagues and the Council for their help and support during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN R. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B.(St. And.), D.P.H. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector :

L. WILSON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Vital Statistics and Social Conditions in the Area

POPULATION (Registrar-General's figures)	8,720
---	-------

BIRTH RATE :

18.12 per 1,000 live births of the resident population.
18.46 per 1,000 live and still births.

DEATH RATE :

10.0 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

DEATHS FROM PUEPERAL CAUSES :

From Sepsis	Nil
From Other Causes	Nil

INFANTILE DEATH RATE :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	25.31
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ..	25.31
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ..	Nil

Births in Clay Cross Urban District

LIVE BIRTHS :

Males : Total 77	Legitimate 72	Illegitimate 5
Females : Total 81	Legitimate 79	Illegitimate 2

STILL BIRTHS :

Males : Total 1	Legitimate 1	Illegitimate Nil
Females : Total 2	Legitimate 2	Illegitimate Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :

Males : Total 3	Legitimate 3	Illegitimate Nil
Females : Total 1	Legitimate 1	Illegitimate Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE :

Males : Total 1	Legitimate 1	Illegitimate Nil
Females : Total 1	Legitimate 1	Illegitimate Nil

Causes of Death
In the Clay Cross District during 1955

							Males	Females
All Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	41
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	7
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Other Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	3
Other Circulatory Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	0
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0

Deaths in Age Groups

1955

			Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	..	..	3	1	4
1—5 years ..	..	..	0	0	0
5—10 years ..	..	..	0	0	0
10—15 years ..	..	..	0	0	0
15—20 years ..	..	..	1	1	2
20—25 years ..	..	..	0	0	0
25—35 years ..	..	..	0	3	3
35—45 years ..	..	..	1	0	1
45—55 years ..	..	..	5	4	9
55—65 years ..	..	..	3	7	10
65—70 years ..	..	..	8	8	16
70—75 years ..	..	..	9	5	14
75—80 years ..	..	..	8	5	13
80—85 years ..	..	..	4	5	9
85—90 years ..	..	..	4	2	6
90—95 years ..	..	..	0	0	0
			—	—	—
			46	41	87
			—	—	—

Social Circumstances

This was again a year of full employment in the Area.

The new Avenue Carbonisation and Chemical Plant of the National Coal Board will, when in full operation, be a source of alternative employment.

One would like to see, however, some light industry developed as it is difficult for partially disabled men to find suitable light work in the heavy industries.

Water Supplies

The supplies were adequate, and although there was some anxiety during the drought, there was no inconvenience to domestic consumers.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Engineer Reports :

" An entirely new Sewage Disposal system costing approximately £25,000 0s. 0d. was commenced during 1955, and it is anticipated that this scheme will be completed and in operation during the summer of 1956.

This scheme was necessary due to the building of the Holmgate Estate and the sewerage of Ashover Road, and intended sewerage of Stretton Road."

Infectious Diseases

The ordinary infectious diseases were of a mild type. Scarlet Fever showed a slight increase ; once again no notifications of diphtheria were received and none of poliomyelitis.

National Assistance Act, 1948

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

Two cases were dealt with during the year.

- (1) An old lady was removed under the Act of 1948.
- (2) In this case the Emergency Powers under the Amendment Act of 1951 were used to remove a very old man with a suspected fracture to Scarsdale Hospital.

I may add that in both cases, while there was no active objection in going to Scarsdale Hospital, no consent could be gained from either party.

Housing

As I pointed out in 1954 the difficulty facing the Public Health side is not the work of inspecting and recommending houses for demolition or Clearance Area action, but to streamline the programmes so that houses condemned and in confirmed Clearance Areas will not remain in occupation for long periods.

The rehousing of tenants at the blocks at Danesmoor is proceeding satisfactorily and it seems likely that the 88 houses at the Long Rows will be vacated and demolished through informal action and with the co-operation of the National Coal Board housing department.

Cases of Notifiable Diseases at Varying Ages during 1955

Infectious Diseases

	Total number notified	Cases Admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	25	9	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever :			
Typhoid	0	0	0
Para-typhoid	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	12	0	3
Measles	98	0	0
Whooping Cough	21	1	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0

Tuberculosis Return for 1955

Treatment Centre, Poolsbrook

Number of cases, 20.

	Adults	5—15	Under 5	Total
SCABIES :				
Bolsover U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough	.. 0	0	0	0
Chesterfield R.D.C.	.. 5	2	1	8
Clay Cross U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Clowne R.D.C. ..	.. 0	0	0	0
Dronfield U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C. ..	.. 0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—
	5	2	1	8
	—	—	—	—
HEAD LICE :				
Bolsover U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough	.. 0	0	0	0
Chesterfield R.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Clay Cross U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Clowne R.D.C. ..	.. 1 (0)	6 (1)	1 (0)	8 (1)
Dronfield U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C. ..	.. 0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—
	1 (0)	6 (1)	1 (0)	8 (1)
	—	—	—	—
SCABIES WITH VERMINOUS HEADS :				
Bolsover U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough	.. 0	0	0	0
Chesterfield R.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Clay Cross U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Clowne R.D.C. ..	.. 0	0	0	0
Dronfield U.D.C.	.. 0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C. ..	.. 0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—
	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—
Diagnosis not confirmed	1			
Miscellaneous	2			
Pediculosis Corporis ..	0			
Pediculosis Pubis ..	1	Dronfield U.D.C. adult		
	—			
	4			
	—			

NOTE.—The numbers in brackets refer to those on whom live lice were found.

**Report of the Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1955**

To the Chairman and Members of
the Clay Cross Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the work of the Health and Cleansing Department for the year 1955.

No request has been received from the County Council for their usual report and the following figures are supplied in lieu :

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT
VISITS AND INSPECTIONS**

Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	322
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	149
Housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	561
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	584
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Petroleum Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Miscellaneous and Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	373
							Total	..
								2,087

FOOD INSPECTION VISITS

Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	381
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Miscellaneous Food Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
							Total	..
								494
No. of complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
Nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117

The number of visits and inspections carried out rises annually and this year is 52% above that of 1951, my first year in office here.

WATER SUPPLIES

			Estimated Population involved
No. of houses in district connected to mains ..	3,040	8,600	
No. of houses in district supplied from standpipes or mains	7	25	
No. of houses in district not supplied from standpipes or mains	25	70	
No. of connections made during year :			
(a) Existing houses	—	—	
(b) New houses	72	—	
(c) Other premises	—	—	

DRAINAGE

		Estimated Population involved
No. of houses in district connected to sewers ..	2,860	8,300
No. of houses in district not connected to sewers ..	130	400
No. of connections made during year :		
(a) Existing houses	—	—
(b) New houses	72	—
(c) Other premises	—	—
No. of conversions of other closets to W.C.'s. ..	0	—

HOUSING

New houses erected during year (including flats) by		
(a) Local Authority .. .. .. ..	..	63
(b) Private Enterprise .. .. .. ..	..	9
No. of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .. ..	..	103
No. of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .. ..	..	103
No. of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. ..	..	14
No. of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of action (formal or informal) by Local Authority .. ..	..	74
No. of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .. ..	..	0
No. of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition or Clearance Orders .. .. .. ..	..	0
No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	1
No. of houses closed by agreement with N.C.B. .. ..	..	13

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts 1928-1936

Your Sanitary Inspector is responsible for the administration of the Petroleum Acts, which are mainly concerned with the storage of petroleum spirit and the licensing of such stores. Thirteen licences to store petroleum spirit are held in the Urban District providing for a maximum storage capacity of 76,000 gallons. Licence fees amount to £14 10s. 0d. 3 new 1,000 gallon underground tanks were approved by your inspector.

Two licences were renewed for the storage of Calcium Carbide, the fees amount to 15s. 0d.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This has been a difficult year for rodent control. A part-time Rodent Operator is necessary, but it has not been found possible to find a man suitable for training in methods of rodent destruction approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Warfarin has again been widely and successfully used during the year.

The annual sewer test was undertaken in October when sixteen manholes, selected to cover the whole of the sewerage area of the Urban District, were baited with damp sausage rusk. Only 2 takes were recorded and at these and surrounding manholes Zinc Phosphide was successfully used.

Rats have been something of a problem on the refuse tip because of the difficulty of maintaining treatments.

The following treatments for rats and mice were carried out during the year :

Refuse Tip ..	..	..	..	2
Depot ..	..	..	..	1
Sewerage Works ..	..	..	..	2
Dwelling houses ..	..	..	..	25
Other Premises ..	..	..	..	15
				—
				45
				—

Housing

A 5 year programme to clear 208 unfit houses was drawn up during the year and approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Govern-

ment. This means at least 40 houses a year must be built if this programme is to be carried out, and there were indications at the end of the year that this may prove difficult.

A Public Enquiry into a Clearance Area of 14 houses was held on the 7th of December.

Only 2 of the 48 houses at the Blocks, Danesmoor were occupied at the end of the year. It is expected that all these houses, badly damaged by mining subsidence, will be demolished during 1956.

During June the Council decided to make grants for the Improvement of houses. 9 applications have been approved, all owner occupiers, and of these 5 were completed by the end of the year. I feel that this is the only method open to a Council to raise the standard of the older houses in a district, and hope that during the years to come wider use will be made of these grants, and that some tenants will also benefit.

Public Cleansing Services

It has been a most difficult year for the refuse collection service, due to shortage of labour, tip fires, sickness, absenteeism, workmen's holidays, and lorry breakdowns. Despite all difficulties a weekly collection of household refuse has been generally maintained. There has been the usual annual increase in workmen's wages, and refuse collection is now an expensive, but very necessary service. The usual answer to increasing labour costs is more machinery, but it must be possible to balance the high cost of such machinery with economies in manpower. Because of the widespread use of concessionary coal in the district a weekly collection of household refuse is imperative throughout most of the year. In fact, very many households fill the largest size dustbin in less than a week. I suggest that the Council should consider the question of a dustbin maintenance scheme to solve the problem of the increasing number of houses without proper dustbins. The imposition of purchase tax on dustbins in this year's interim budget is deplorable from a Public Cleansing point of view. The number of ashpits has been still further reduced, but the remainder have only been cleansed very irregularly.

The emptying of cesspools has been carried out reasonably satisfactorily, but I must emphasise that it is usually impossible to cleanse cesspools without a few days' notice.

Street Cleansing in the centre of the town has been carried out regularly and efficiently, but other areas of the district do not receive

enough attention. With the taking over of the new N.C.B. estate the Council are now responsible for the cleansing of some 13 miles of roads and streets.

352 street gullies were cleansed during June by a Gully Emptier hired from Chesterfield Borough Council. This is an increase of 55 on the previous year, and the number is still increasing. This total does not include any gullies on County Roads.

The replacement of the Karrier Bantam Refuse Lorry cannot be deferred much longer. Two efficient and reliable lorries are the absolute minimum requirements of the Cleansing Department.

The two lorries have travelled nearly 14,000 miles and used 2,156 gallons of petrol in carrying out these services.

Refuse Disposal

Refuse Disposal by controlled tipping has been carried out at the Chesterfield Road tip. It is estimated that more than 3,300 tons of refuse are collected and disposed of annually.

A series of serious tip fires occurred during the summer. Although the summer was exceptionally dry, it is my opinion that all these fires were started by some human agency. Apart from the considerable cost of damping down these fires, severe delays were caused to the refuse collection schedule. Also the plan to increase the cultivable area of the tip nearest the houses was ruined. It will not be possible to resume tipping near the area of these fires for several months to come. Tip maintenance has been neglected owing to shortage of labour. There is sufficient work for one man every day of the week. If a full time tip attendant had been available, the tip fires would not have been so serious, valuable salvage would not have been buried, and a better tip would have been constructed.

The crop of wheat was almost a total failure due to the exceptionally dry summer. A very poor crop was further spoiled by birds. Although this crop was a failure I do not feel that the money spent on preparing the ground and seed was entirely wasted. At least there was no weed problems on this part of the tip, and the appearance was greatly improved. I feel that the Council should consider the future use of this ground, which can be a valuable asset to the town.

Cricket infestations were a serious problem and a considerable source of annoyance to nearby houses. The infestations were exceptionally heavy due to the very warm weather and the position was complicated by the series of tip fires. A considerable amount of time

and money were spent before control was achieved. Rat infestations also became severe, mainly due to the impossibility of regular treatments and the good weather of course favoured breeding.

Collections

No. of dustbins (weekly)	3,250
No. of privies (collected when possible)	30
No. of pails (weekly)	24
No. of cesspools emptied (as required)	73

Salvage

The tonnage of paper collected and sold was well in advance of the record figures of last year. Although it is true to say that there is much more waste paper available for collection, the men should be congratulated on their efforts. Towards the end of the year there were signs that the waste paper market was once again becoming saturated, and more difficult conditions may prevail during 1956. Other salvaged materials show a decline due entirely to the shortage of labour.

The following table shows the fluctuations in the amounts and value of paper collected annually since salvage operations were inaugurated on the 1st April, 1940.

Year	Tonnage Collected			Value		
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
1940	24	0	0	96	2	0
1941	93	13	0	381	14	7
1942	76	14	0	437	10	4
1943	53	6	0	353	5	8
1944	59	13	0	403	16	1
1945	50	16	0	338	9	1
1946	60	4	0	395	0	0
1947	56	3	0	392	16	1
1948	83	19	0	576	9	8
1949	36	16	0	245	4	5
1950	49	8	0	274	10	0
1951	85	8	0	1,192	12	11
1952	65	17	0	685	3	6
1953	70	8	0	404	8	11
1954	93	19	0	663	15	0
1955	107	0	0	885	19	9
	1,067	4	0	£7,726	15	0

Salvaged Materials, 1955

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper		107	0	0	885	19	9
Loose Tins		8	12	0	17	4	0
		115	12	0	£903	3	9

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

This has been the first full year since the derationing of meat. Four private slaughterhouses have been in use during this period. I wish to express my thanks to the owners of these slaughterhouses for their friendly and willing co-operation in ensuring that all carcasses are inspected.

CONDEMNATIONS — WHOLE CARCASSES

		Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis only		0	0	0	0
All diseases except Tuberculosis		1	1	0	1
		—	—	—	—
		1	1	0	1
		—	—	—	—

CONDEMNATIONS — PART CARCASSES

		Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis only		8	0	0	12
All diseases except Tuberculosis		3	0	0	0
		—	—	—	—
		11	0	0	12
		—	—	—	—

Weights of Meat and Offal Condemned

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat (Tuberculosis)			6	0	1
Meat (Other Causes)			5	2	25
Offal (Tuberculosis)			16	2	7
Offal (Other Causes)			9	2	15
		1	17	3	20

The following table concerning the post mortem inspection of animals is in accordance with circular 17/55 of the Ministry of Health.

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
NUMBER KILLED ..	121 (includes 5 bulls)	544	49	677	549	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED	121	544	49	677	549	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	0	1	1	0	1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3	105	0	11	0	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	2.48	19.48	2.04	1.62	0.18	
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4	119	0	0	12	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.30	21.87	—	—	2.18	
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0	
Generalised and totally condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	

Condemned Canned and Other Foodstuffs

Tomatoes	77 tins	Fish (Various) ..	21 tins
Meats (Various)	18 "	Corned Beef ..	16 "
Soup	9 "	Cooked Ham ..	4 "
Milk and Cream	17 "	Cheese	46 lbs.
Peas	6 "	Boneless Gammon ..	11 "
Others	2 "	Pork Sausage ..	7 "
Fruit	55 "		

Food Hygiene

This subject has received a good deal of attention and publicity in recent years and new regulations come into force on the 1st January, 1956. It is apparent that many food traders are giving increasing attention to the necessity of selling food in the freshest possible condition. I commend the enterprise of 2 of the grocers who have installed refrigerators and 2 fishmongers who have installed refrigerated display cabinets during the year.

Ice Cream

Two premises are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947, but in fact, no ice cream was manufactured during 1955.

During the year 3 premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream.

The total number of premises in the district registered for the sale of Ice Cream is now thirty-three.

Milk Supply

There are twenty producers of milk in the Urban District, three of which are producer-retailers, but by far the greater part of the milk trade is now in the hands of the big dairies. Clay Cross is part of a Specified Area which means that only Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, and Sterilised Milks are supplied by retail in the area.

Sampling (Food and Drugs Act) 1938

Statutory sampling is carried out by Officers of Derbyshire County Council. The following information has been supplied by the County Analyst, Mr. R. W. Sutton, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

" 40 samples including 15 milks were taken under the above act in the area of the Clay Cross Urban District Council during the year 1955.

Analysis did not disclose any serious irregularities and no proceedings were taken.

Samples of Iodised Salt were found to be deficient in Iodine, deterioration probably having taken place during storage. The rest of the stock was withdrawn from sale and replaced by the manufacturers.

The remaining samples were classed as satisfactory."

Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS—

Premises	No.	Inspections
Factories with mechanical power ..	32	17
Factories without mechanical power ..	3	1
Other premises under the Act ..	3	1
—	—	—
	38	19
—	—	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND—

	No.	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences			
Unsatisfactory	1		2

Smoke Abatement

During the year the North East Derbyshire Smoke Abatement Joint Consultative Committee was formed. It was felt that such a Committee would have a useful part to play in the drive for a cleaner and healthier atmosphere. A new Clean Air bill was laid before Parliament, and I hope that the Council will take a lead in reducing domestic smoke in the town. The widespread issue of concessionary coal in the district is an additional obstacle to be overcome. Most householders remain unconvinced of the merits of smokeless fuels and are indifferent to the atmospheric pollution produced by themselves.

Yours faithfully,

L. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

James W. Petts & Son. Printers. Clay Cross